THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): The total amount spent on renovation/modernisation of nationalised mills under the National Textile Corporation, mill-wise, during the years 1983-84 to 1985-86 is given in the Statement. [*See* Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 106]

Export of Foodgrains

1935. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains exported to different countries during the year 1985-86; and

(b) the quantum of foodgrains likely to be exported during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Export of foodgrains during 1985-86, as per provisional data compiled, is estimated at 5.74 lakh tonnes.

(b) Export of foodgrains during 1986-87 will depend upon the international trading environment and exportable surpluses available in the country.

Issue of Acutal Users Import Licence

1936. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules and regulations governing the issuing of Actual Users Import Licence to aerated water concentrate manufacturers; and

(b) how many companies possess such licence at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Major raw materials for manufacture of aerated water concentrates are Flavouring essences, mixtures of odoriferous substances, synthetic essential oils and citric acid. Import of flavouring essences, mixtures of odoriferous substances and synthetic essential oils is not normally permitted. Import of citric acid can, however, be allowed to eligible actual users (industrial) on the recommendation of sponsoring authorities, having regard to indigenous availability under the procedure for supplementary licensing, as per Import and Export Policy 1985-88 (Volume-I).

(b) Particulars of all import licences issued are published in the "Weekly Bulletin of Import Licence, Export Licences and Industrial Licences" published by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Insurance cover for Bank Staff

1937. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for providing insurance cover to the staff including the security staff of banks keeping in view their security risk; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in consumption of Cotton

1938. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumption of cotton has been declining in the country;

(b) if so, what are the consumption figures, year-wise for the last three years;

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in consumption; and

(d) whether the decline in cotton consumption is leading to decline in production also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The consumption of cotton in the country has been marginally increasing. The figures of consumption in the country are 84.71, 91.15 and 91.65 lakh bales during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Unskilled Indian Labourers in Middle East

1939. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unskilled Indian labourers at present working in the Middle-East countries including the names of such countries;

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to safeguard the interests of such workers and the Indian contracting firms; and

(c) the assistance rendered by the Indian Embassies in these countries to safeguard their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) About 4 lakh Unskilled Indian labourers are working in the following Middle-East countries:—

Kuwait, Saudi-Arabia, UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Iraq, Libya, etc.

(b) Recruitment is regulated through registered recruiting agencies and employment contracts are duly attested.

(c) The Indian Embassies abroad take up the grievances of Indian workers with the local employers, Labour Courts and the local Governments.

Amount due under ESIS in Orissa

1940. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount due to the workers in Orissa on account of Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(b) the steps taken to recover the arrears from the companies for payment to the workers; and

(c) the reasons for delay in making payment to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The insured persons under the ESI Scheme are entitled to cash benefits in the contingencies of sickness, maternity and employment injury. The amount due to the workers in the above mentioned contingencies are paid to them as and when their claims are finalised. The question of total amount due to the workers does not, therefore arise;

(b) The payment to the workers is not dependent on recovery of arrears from the employers. The ESI authorities are, however, taking the following steps for realisation of the outstanding dues from the defaulting establishments:—

(1) Revenue recovery certificates are being issued under Section 45B of the ESI Act;

(2) Prosecution cases are being filed under section 85 of the ESI Act;

(3) Complaints are being filed with the Police authorities under section 406/409 IPC for non-payment of employees' share of contribution deducted from the wages of the employees;